

**PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA**

NEWS RELEASE

Friday, Jan. 12, 2007

Commissioners, Wefald, Cramer, and Clark

For Immediate Release*

Phone 701-328-2400

Public hearing set on wind farm transmission siting

BISMARCK – The public will soon have a chance to provide input in Ashley on a proposed 12-mile transmission line and corridor for a new wind farm in North Dakota.

The North Dakota Public Service Commission will hold a public hearing on Thursday, Jan. 18 at 11 a.m. CST in the McIntosh County Courthouse, located at 112-1st Street NE, in Ashley.

The hearing will be about a proposal by Tatanka Wind Power, LLC, to build a 230,000-volt transmission line and associated interconnection substation for a 180-megawatt wind farm located in North Dakota and South Dakota. The PSC has authority over the siting of transmission facilities in North Dakota.

The proposed transmission line is located approximately 22 miles west of Ellendale. In North Dakota, the transmission corridor is approximately 12 miles in length and spans 17 sections in Dickey and McIntosh counties.

Commissioner Susan Wefald said utilities are required to research the impact their projects will have on the land and population and submit their findings to the PSC.

“It’s a significant project that requires careful consideration before being approved,” Wefald said. “We want to be sure that the company has thoroughly studied the impacts of the transmission line before construction begins.”

Commissioner Kevin Cramer welcomes the opportunity to hear more about the project from the people who will be impacted by it.

“We like to hear from the public because they give us a good indication of the kind of job the company is doing to address their concerns.”

Commissioner Tony Clark said he is excited to be a part of another major wind farm project in North Dakota.

“It’s very important that government officials, the public and businesses work together on a project of this magnitude because it can reap huge returns to the local and state economies.”

Some of the issues the PSC will consider before voting on the siting application include:

- Effects on the environment, natural resources and welfare of the citizens.
- The compatibility with environmental preservation and efficient use of resources.
- The ability of the electric transmission line corridor to minimize adverse human and environmental impacts while ensuring system reliability and integrity and that energy needs are met and fulfilled in an orderly and timely fashion.

Tatanka wants to begin construction of the transmission line in March and complete construction in the fall. The company estimates the cost of the transmission line to be \$7.3 million. The company also plans on completing the \$200 million wind farm in the fall so that the electricity it generates can be delivered by Dec. 1, 2007.

The wind farm will consist of 120 wind generators each capable of producing 1.5 megawatts of power. The generators will be located in Dickey County, North Dakota and McPherson County, South Dakota. According to an application filed by Tatanka, approximately 60 of the generators will be located in North Dakota. The electricity produced will be used in the Dakotas, Montana, Minnesota and Wyoming.

For more information contact the PSC at 328-2400.

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